



OUR TOWN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

JUNE 2013



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LOS ALTOS HILLS VOLUNTEER STANDING COMMITTEES

COMMITTEES

- Community Relations
- Education
- Emergency Communications
- Environmental Design and Protection
- Environmental Initiatives
- Finance and Investment
- History
- LA/LAH Joint Community Volunteer Service Awards
- LA/LAH Senior Commission
- Open Space
- Parks and Recreation
- Planning Commission
- Pathways
- Traffic Safety
- Water Conservation
- Youth Commission

**NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEMBERS**

115

**NUMBER OF
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

35



Lending a Helping Hand

Psychologist Erik Erikson believed that from infancy to late adulthood, humans develop through eight discrete stages, resolving a psychosocial crisis that leads to a corresponding virtue. Central to the concept of volunteerism is the virtue of care, which results from the resolution of Erikson's seventh stage, generativity versus stagnation. This stage poses the question: how can I make my life count? Adults who embrace generativity begin to focus on contributing to their community and working to guide and inspire the next generation. This concept of generativity is alive and well in Los Altos Hills, as evidenced by an impressive group of passionate and dedicated volunteers who help the town thrive. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]



"The very best thing about volunteering is that you get more than you give. What you get is friendship, cemented from working together for a common goal that is larger than yourself. You also get satisfaction from knowing that you are making community."

KAREN DRUKER, VOLUNTEER OF MORE THAN 50 YEARS

The Value of Committees

Los Altos Hills is served by 16 advisory committees that report to the city council, effectively acting as the eyes and ears of the council. Each year, 115 members and 35 associate members volunteer their time, experience, and efforts to these committees. Members must be current residents of the town. Associate members are individuals who are currently residents or were residents and attend committee meetings but cannot vote. Each of the committees meets regularly throughout the year and has a councilmember who serves as a liaison. Committee members typically serve for terms of four years, without any term limits.

Carl Cahill, City Manager since 2006, speaks eloquently about the tremendous value of the committees: "A well-known proverb states that 'plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.' That has certainly proven true in Los Altos Hills. The serious deliberations of the city council are greatly enhanced by a multitude of committee volunteers who provide the council and staff with competent advice on vital community issues and public projects. From town hall to the town budget, those undertakings that enjoy the most success and receive the greatest community affirmation are the ones that have been first scrutinized by the public and thoughtfully considered at the committee level."

Sarah Gualtieri, Community Services Coordinator since 2010, works directly with four committees: Community Relations, Parks and Recreation, Senior Commission, and Youth Commission. "Volunteers are so important to the programs and events we have," Gualtieri said. "Due to their dedicated and tireless work, the town is able to provide a wide range of activities, and we are able to do it at such a high caliber."

How Volunteers Benefit

Although the town benefits from the generous gift of time, wisdom, experience, and efforts of its volunteers, the residents believe that there are plenty of benefits of

volunteering. Karen Druker, currently art curator for the town, has been volunteering for more than five decades. "The very best thing about volunteering is that you get more than you give," she explains. "What you get is friendship, cemented from working together for a common goal that is larger than yourself. You also get valuable experience and learning, as well as the satisfaction from knowing that you are making community."

Duffy Price is a veteran volunteer, having been actively involved with the town since 1993, she explains: "Bill

JOIN A COMMITTEE

Residents are invited to join a committee that aligns with their experience and interests. The following committees are looking for new members:

- Community Relations
- Education
- Emergency Communications
- Environmental Design and Protection
- Environmental Initiatives
- Parks and Recreation
- Water Conservation

Siegal, who was mayor at the time, suggested that I join the Community Relations Committee to help with events and communications. Since then, volunteering for the town has been my way of life." For Price, the best part of volunteering is making new friends: "I find it personally rewarding to create and build something new. Teamwork is tremendously fulfilling, especially making new friends with your neighbors." Indeed, Price represents the very ethos of generativity as she reflects on her two decades of service: "After so many years of volunteering, it is fun to

look back and realize that participation is its own reward. It forces you to remain contemporary — and even youthful — in thought, action, and deed."

Los Altos Hills residents further demonstrate their commitment to the community by volunteering in local nonprofits. For example, resident Diane Ciesinski has fond memories of her volunteer experience at Hidden Villa: "As a mother of two young children back in 1993, my volunteer hours were a much-needed boost amid a crazy schedule. The first jobs I did included answering phones in the Summer Camp office, helping to plan the annual Spring Fair event, and working with the development office. As the kids got older, I brought them with me and we worked in the farm fields when the CSA vegetable program was just getting started. A few years later my husband suggested I join the board of trustees. This was a terrific way to learn how the organization was managed, participate in a few board committees, and to assist with the strategic planning."

Volunteer Recognition

Each year, the town thanks all the committee members at its annual Volunteer Dinner. The dinner was first conceived in 1992 by then city manager, Les Jones, and immediately embraced by councilmember Elayne Dauber. The first dinner, held in February 1993, was a very modest affair with several dozen people attending. Fast forward to 2013, to an elegant dinner held at the Fremont Hills Country Club with more than 150 volunteers in attendance. For volunteers who attend the dinner, the event is both gratifying and humbling to see so many residents dedicated to making Los Altos Hills a thriving and enriching community.

To learn more about committees or to apply, please contact Deborah Padovan at dpadovan@losaltoshills.ca.gov or 650-941-7222.



TO LEARN MORE:

Visit www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/city-government/standing-committees

Creating a Legacy in Los Altos Hills is Only a Few Brush Strokes Away



Just outside the entrance to Town Hall lies the serpentine seating wall adorned with 1,200 tiles that were individually designed and painted by residents. The town's first public art project, the donor wall was initiated in 2004 and completed six years later. Facing a shortage of funds for the landscaping of Town Hall, architect Peter Duxbury came up with the idea of the wall as a fundraiser. Thanks to the stewardship of Duffy Price and Karen Druker, the first two phases of the donor wall project were immensely successful, generating more than \$132,000.

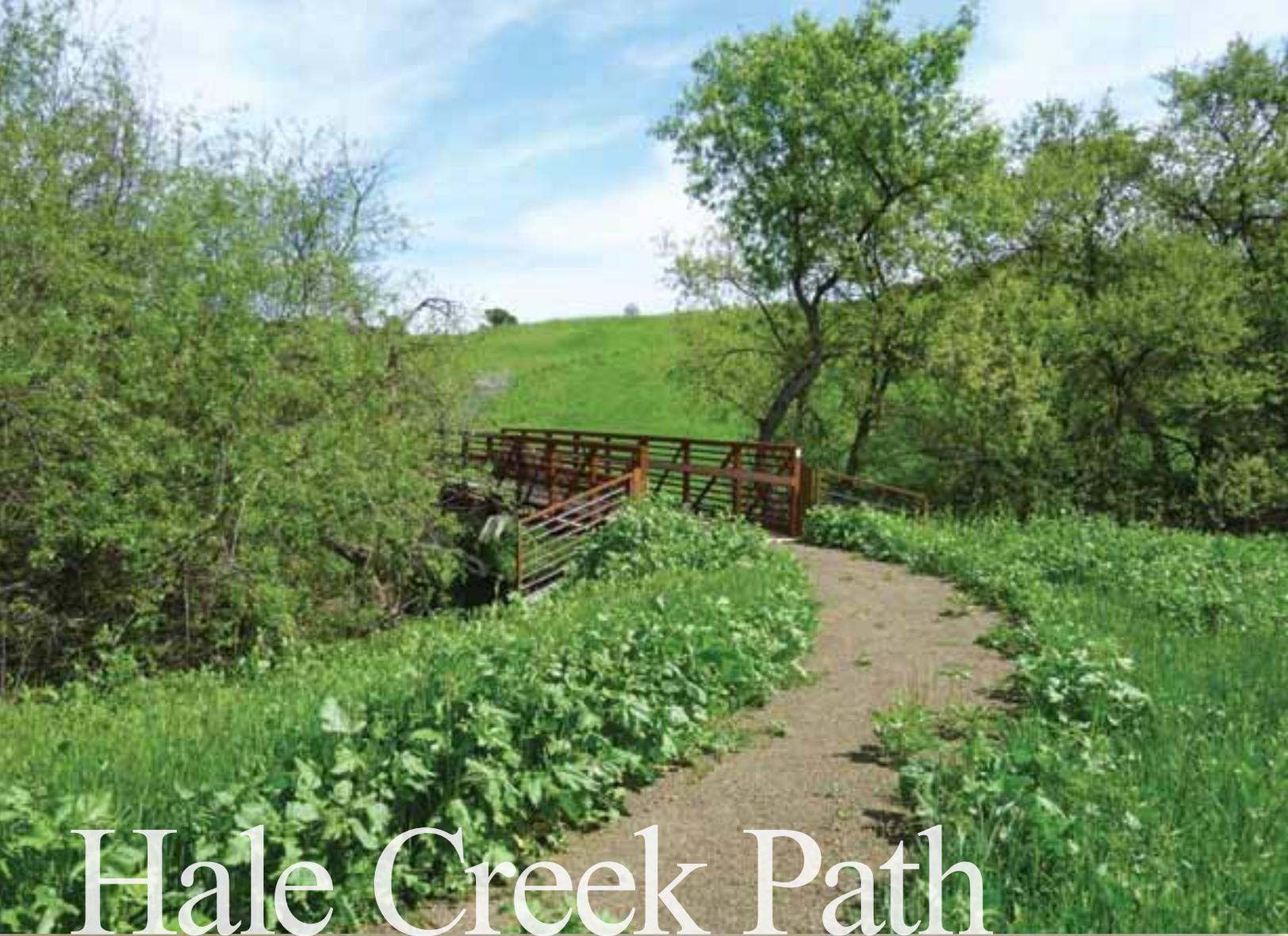
After visiting the wall and enjoying the wide range of artwork displayed on the tiles, many residents who were not involved in the earlier phases expressed interest in purchasing tiles. In response to continued interest in the donor wall, the town has initiated a new fundraising program, inviting residents to purchase and create tiles that will be placed on the seating wall located just outside of council chambers (the wall is pictured below).



As with the previous phase, the town will partner with Create It!, a ceramic studio located at the Town & Country Shopping Center in Palo Alto, to help residents design and paint their individual tiles. The new wall will be completed in four separate phases (III - VI). Each phase will offer 8-inch tiles, sold for \$800, and 4-inch tiles sold for \$400. The proceeds will be designated for specific purposes at a future date by the city council. Phase III will officially begin on June 2, at the Town Picnic. Upon reaching capacity of each of the phases, residents will be given a deadline for completion of their tiles. Once all the tiles for a specific phase are received, they will be installed all at once.

To purchase a tile or to learn more, contact Sarah Gualtieri, 650-947-2518 or sgualtieri@losaltoshills.ca.gov.

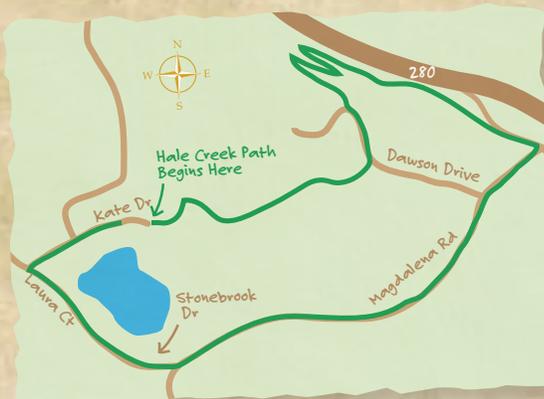




Hale Creek Path

The Hale Creek Path is the newest, partially-completed path in Los Altos Hills and connects Dawson Drive to Magdalena Road. When fully completed, the Hale Creek Path will connect Magdalena Road to El Monte. This new pathway is part of a very pleasant, scenic circular three-mile walk for residents. The walk begins at Kate Drive and leads to a short uphill climb up the Mary Stutz path (named after a past chairperson of the Pathways Committee). The first part of the path cuts through the beautiful Juan Prado Preserve — a wonderful place to decompress and capture a moment of natural peace. It is easy to get lost in the remote feeling of this quiet path. Near the end of the preserve there is a fork in the road. Taking either fork will lead to Dawson Drive. Here you will find the entrance of a new spur that connects Dawson Drive to Magdalena Road. The new path follows a new driveway, then turns left into a conserva-

tion easement. This is a native path that can get muddy after it has rained. Beyond the conservation easement, the path opens onto an exposed, sun-splashed stretch leading to a picturesque bridge over Hale Creek (pictured above) that is flanked by native trees and shrubs. Upon reaching Magdalena, the Hale Creek Path ends and the walk continues about a mile on existing roadside paths.



Walkers are advised to be careful when walking along the off ramp at Highway 280 and Magdalena Road — these are busy roads. A long walk along Magdalena Road leads to Stonebrook Drive. Stonebrook is a quiet, tree-lined street with beautiful views of the quarry lake and the rolling hills. This last part of the loop connects

Stonebrook Drive to Laura Court, which leads back to the beginning of the walk on Kate Drive.

A town is shaped, in large measure, by the people who live there. Los Altos Hills is home to innovators and pioneers in the area of politics, technology, business, medicine, philanthropy, the arts, and environment, among others. The profile page of *Our Town* will feature some of these residents who, through their unique talents, spirit, and efforts, make Los Altos Hills a vibrant and fascinating community.

ELLEN SUSSSMAN

Ellen Sussman is a bestselling-writer who has lived in Los Altos Hills with her husband and two daughters for more than 15 years. She is the author of three novels and two anthologies.

You were born in New Jersey. You have lived in many major cities in America, and have lived abroad. How did you come to live in Los Altos Hills?

When we moved back to the States from Paris, we wanted to move someplace new and beautiful. We knew it would be hard to leave Paris, so we were hoping that our new home would offer something different. The first time I went hiking in the Santa Cruz Mountains, just ten minutes from our house, I knew that I'd love living in Los Altos Hills.

What do you love about the town?

The mountains. The proximity to the beach and the city. The fact that we feel as if we're living in the country even though we're so close to everything.

Tell us about your education and early mentors.

I went to Tufts University for my undergraduate degree and Johns Hopkins University for a graduate degree in creative writing. Jonathan Strong was my teacher and mentor during college (and for many years after); he was a wonderful writer. He taught me that the most important thing is to write; not to publish or promote or sell — it's to write.

Many writers like the high energy of big city life, and the instant access to culture and the arts. How do you deal with that chasm between small, rural town life and a cosmopolitan life?

I'm a funny mix of introvert and extrovert. I love my quiet life at home and yet I crave the big city. My husband and I go into San Francisco a couple of nights a week for plays and lectures and dinners with friends.

What aspects of town life inspire you as a writer?

I hike in the hills a couple of days a week. And I walk my dog in the neighborhood every day. That's my best inspiration. I often work through writing problems while hiking.



All of my good teachers stand behind me when I teach. I've learned from so many of them — elementary school teachers, high school teachers, college and grad school.

Teaching has been a thread woven throughout your professional career. Was there a specific teacher that inspired you?

All of my good teachers stand behind me when I teach. I've learned from so many of them — elementary school teachers, high school teachers, college and grad school. I take teaching very seriously and I try to make my classes very dynamic.

Tell us about the classes you teach.

I teach private classes out of my house and I also teach through Stanford Continuing Studies. One of my favorite private classes is called Novel in a Year. Students commit to writing a novel in a year and I work with them to get that done, then I critique the novel at the end of the year.

In an interview you called yourself "a very social animal." Is teaching small seminars and supporting writers a way to balance solitude and community?

Yes, writing is a lonely job! And publishing is a crazy-making business! So I like to create

support systems so that we writers don't feel so alone in the process.

Some writers live very solitary, introspective lives, but you have been very involved in the writing community. Is this an important part of your legacy?

I'm a writer first and foremost. But yes, I do love building community. When I first started writing in the Bay Area, I didn't know any writers. I started an organization called Word of Mouth, Bay Area (WOMBA) for published women writers. We now have over 80 women in the organization! And I'm very involved with Litquake, a fabulous organization that brings writers and readers together.

Is there a theme that runs through your novels/work?

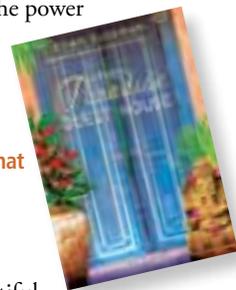
I now see that there is one theme that runs through my work — it's loss. I lost my father when I was 15 and my mother when I was in my early 30s. It's something that has shaped me. And I suppose I keep working it out on the page. I also write about the power of love to transform us.

You just published a new novel, *The Paradise Guest House*. Tell us a little about what inspired the story and what issues you wanted to explore.

My husband and I traveled to Bali a few weeks after the terrorist attacks there. The country is spectacularly beautiful and the Balinese people are lovely. But they were struggling to understand what had happened to them. By the end of the trip I had an idea for a novel: a young American woman returns to Bali a year after she was caught in the terrorist attacks. She tries to find the man who saved her. The novel gave me a chance to tell a dramatic story while learning about Bali and the people.

Any advice for young writers?

Get a day job — and then write, write, write! Take writing classes. Find a writing community. Most importantly, put your butt in the chair and write.





Healthy Joints for an Active Summer

Summer is nearly here, and our community is ready to get active, whether it's running, biking or playing sports. Whether you are a first-time athlete or a more experienced sportsman, your joints, especially the hips, knees, ankles, shoulders, and spine, are susceptible to damage if you're not careful.

Dr. Kris Okumu, an orthopedic spine surgeon at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View, often sees patients who are "weekend warriors" or individuals lifting heavy objects and doing chores with improper biomechanics. "The spine is a series of joints, all of which are susceptible to damage; the muscles that support the spine can also sustain microtrauma." Dr. John Parker, also an orthopedic surgeon at El Camino Hospital, commonly sees patients with twisted knees, sprained ankles, and pain behind the kneecap from running; shoulder tendinitis from tennis; and osteoarthritis of the hips and knees, especially among more active Baby Boomers. Both agree that following basic tips can help protect joints and avoid injury this summer:

- **Stay fit year-round:** A regular exercise regimen can increase health and decrease discomfort and injury.
- **Choose low-impact sports:** Walking does not require a gym membership or a partner and can be done indoors or outdoors. Swimming is an excellent choice for those with spinal problems.
- **Stretch and strengthen muscles:** Use strengthening exercises to keep muscles around the hips, ankles, knees and shoulders strong and to protect joints.
- **Talk to the experts:** Consult an orthopedic surgeon, physiatrist, primary care physician or physical therapist for information about proper strengthening exercises, techniques, and proper biomechanics.
- **Know your limits:** Listen to your body and back off if you feel pain.

If you experience a joint injury, consult a physician to prevent further injury. Visit www.elcaminohospital.org/ortho for more information or to contact a physician.

Summertime Open House and Country Dance at Hidden Villa

Come celebrate the summer at Hidden Villa — **admission is free** — all day Sunday, July 14. Everyone is welcome to spend the day enjoying this 1600-acre beyond-organic farm and wilderness area located right here in Los Altos Hills. Bring a picnic lunch, put on your boots and hike the shaded forest trails, say hello to our newest farm animals, and experience local history as you stroll by the barns and blacksmith shop.

Then, from 3:00 – 5:00 pm, Andy Wilson and County Line Pickers will get you swinging your partner at an old-fashioned country dance at the farm's Tin Barn. All ages and two-left-feet folk are welcomed — Andy will teach you all the moves.

Pre-registration is encouraged for the Open House, so sign up now at: www.hiddenvilla.org/programs/calendar-of-events.

Special for Los Altos Hills residents: The first 125 Los Altos Hills families to sign up for the Open House will receive a free season pass, allowing free access to Hidden Villa whenever it is open to the public.



NESTING BIRDS



Spring and summer are the prime nesting season for birds, which set up territories, build all types of nests, incubate eggs, and feed their young before and after they fledge. Their active nests are protected by law, so be careful about pruning and tree removal from February to August.

Pairing Up

Some bird species are truly monogamous, and mate for life. Most birds are socially monogamous – they team with the same mate year after year to raise their young. First they find each other and set up territories. Singing is one of the most common ways that birds define their territory. The American robin and California thrasher sing beautiful songs from a high perch. The red-shouldered hawk and acrobatic hummingbird fiercely defend their respective territories by making a racket.

Territory

The territory includes both an appropriate nest site and food. The size depends on the availability of food. Some nest sites are perennial, and you will find the same birds there from year to year. That is particularly true of large birds, like owls, osprey, and eagles – birds that have few young

and need to conserve energy for reproduction.

Once a territory is established, the couple builds its nest; in some cases only the female or the male builds the nest. Nests vary from practically nothing — like the mourning dove's few sticks — to an intricately woven sack or cup adorned with lichen and other natural finds, or a giant pile of sticks that is added to year after year (an aerie). Many birds in this area, such as wrens, need a cavity to nest in, and bird houses are usually a successful addition to the yard. Some birds, such as the California quail, meadowlark and killdeer nest on the ground in a bare-minimum scrape, while others, such as the turkey vulture, do not build a nest.

Nests

A group of eggs is called a clutch. Hummingbirds and hawks will lay about two eggs, and songbirds will lay three to four eggs. The ground-nesters will lay 12-16 eggs because they lose eggs and

young to predation. Thus, you will see a covey of quail with a lot of young. Because not all of them make it to adulthood, they necessarily have big broods.

Incubation

Incubation for many smaller nesting birds takes about two weeks, as does fledging. In larger birds, these processes typically take longer. The ground-nesters generally fledge faster, which is critical for survival. Some

FUN FACTS

Feathers make up 6-9% of a bird's weight. A hummingbird has about 1,000 feathers. A swan has about 25,000 feathers.

Many birds add green leaves or cedar bark with pesticidal properties to their nests, particularly if using an old nest. This protects the nestlings from parasites.

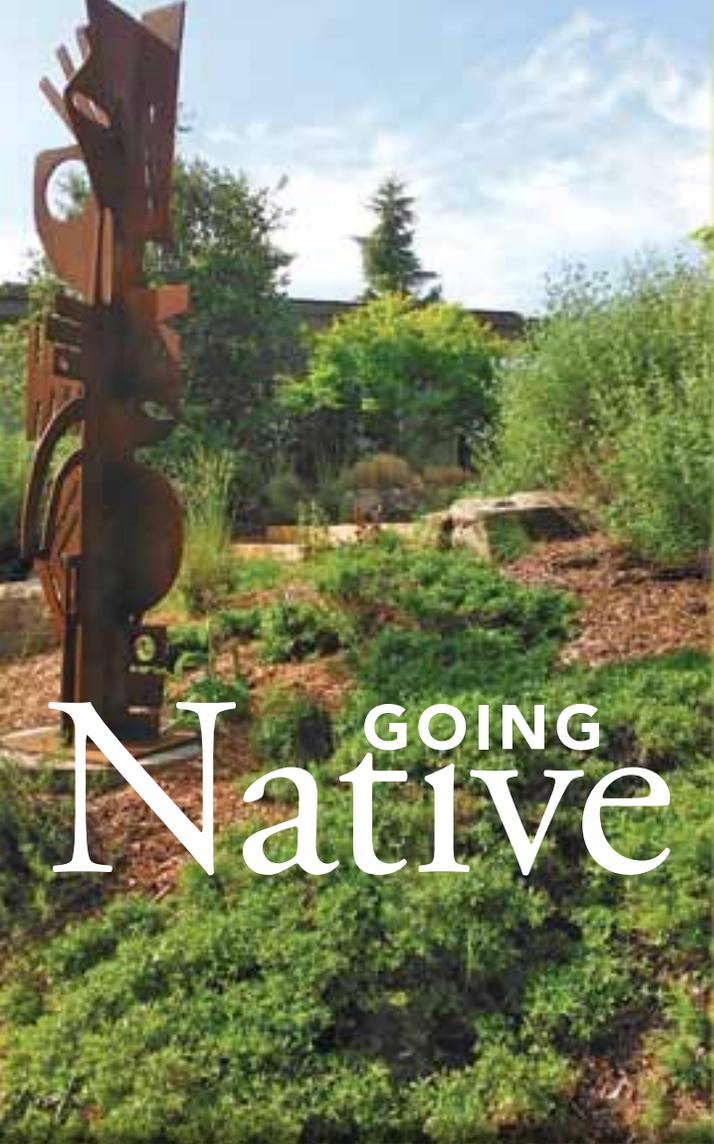
songbirds will produce two broods in a season. For raptors (owls, hawks, falcons), there is only one small brood per year, so impacts on those nests can really affect the population.

Some species are cooperative breeders — the youngsters return to help the parents raise a new brood. Acorn woodpeckers establish communes and are quite social.

Tread Lightly

Birds are easily disturbed during nesting, and will abandon their nest and eggs if approached too often or handled. Be careful, too, because predators can follow human scent to nests that are visited repeatedly.





GOING Native

In 2010, the State of California released the 20x2020 Water Conservation Plan. The goal is to achieve a 20% reduction in per capita urban water use statewide by 2020. In Los Altos Hills and Los Altos irrigation accounts for 50-70% of urban water use, with lawns being one of the thirstiest types of landscaping. Here is a list of the most compelling reasons to replace your lawn with native plants:

1. **Healthier Creeks.** Fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides pollute creeks, killing aquatic life and spreading disease. Lawns should be at least 50 feet away from waterways (but even at that distance, pollutants will still find their way into creeks).
2. **Less Storm Water Runoff.** Deep roots of native plants and trees surrounded by mulch retain more water onsite than turf, and much more than synthetic turf.
3. **More Free Time.** Lawns can take as much time to manage as vegetable gardens, yet only yield grass clippings. Native plants don't require fertilizer, herbicides, or pesticides and benefit from only annual or semiannual pruning.
4. **Save Water.** Lawns require more water than our climate can provide. Lawn irrigation accounts for the largest single use of residential potable water, water that may have been transported hundreds of miles to your home. Reducing our draw of water from the Delta and the Sierras helps maintain their ecosystems.
5. **Save Money.** All the mowing, fertilizing, applying herbicides, and irrigating of lawns cost a lot of money. Native plants need substantially less effort and money to maintain.
6. **Cash for Grass.** Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) will pay you up to \$2,000 to replace your lawn. Contact SCVWD to learn more.
7. **Good Bugs, Not Bad Bugs.** Frequent watering creates tiny pools that are perfect habitats for mosquitoes to breed. Native plants attract good bugs and birds — those that eat mosquitoes and other pests.
8. **Biodiversity.** Other than hardscape, there isn't a more inhospitable surface to biodiversity than the monoculture of lawns. Native plants invite a wide range of birds, insects, and wildlife.
9. **Less Greenhouse Gases.** Manufacture and transportation of fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and mowers has a substantial carbon footprint. Transportation, pumping, and treatment of water requires energy. When you save water, you also save energy.
10. **Smart Choice.** Landscaping with plants that are native to our climate is a smart choice. If you want soft areas for kids to roll in, native grasses come in all three flavors: seeds, plugs, and sod.

To learn more about native gardens and available local resources, contact Kit Gordon at water@greentownlosaltos.org.

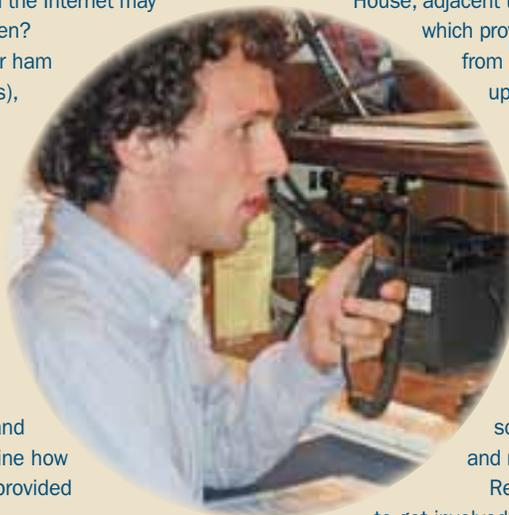
WHEN PHONES *DON'T* WORK

At some point, a major disaster will strike the Bay Area. It is difficult to predict how much damage structures and roads will sustain; but one thing is fairly certain — phones, mobile or landline, may not work due to damage or overload conditions. Even the Internet may not be immune to the damage. What happens then?

When phones don't work, the town's amateur ham operators (FCC-licensed amateur radio operators), who have been trained to work with town Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members, will step in. The town's 150 CERT team members will cover the 50+ neighborhood zones to assess and report on damage. The ham operators will provide communications between CERT groups and the town's Emergency Operations Center, and between the town and the county Office of Emergency Services (OES).

Getting an early assessment to the county, and from there onward to the state OES, will determine how fast and what types of emergency services are provided from outside the town.

At the present time, the town's Emergency Communications Committee (ECC), chartered by the Los Altos Hills City Council, is comprised of 15



ham operators and supplemented by associate members. Expected to provide services for at least three days without outside assistance, the ham operators are assigned out of their office located in Heritage House, adjacent to Town Hall. The radio operators use a repeater which provides enhanced coverage for handheld radios to and from almost all parts of town. The repeater was recently upgraded to provide battery back-up for at least five days.

The radio operators also assist during CERT drills and county exercises to maintain their proficiency levels, to ensure that equipment is in good order, and simply to get used to each other's voices.

In addition, they are encouraged (whether ECC members or not) to make Monday call-ins to the Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication Service and to a local ECC-controlled radio conversation held each week. Membership requirements are manageable even with a reasonably busy work schedule; moreover, being a radio operator can be fun and rewarding in itself.

Residents who are ham radio operators and would like to get involved and help in the event of a major disaster, or those who simply want to get a ham license, please contact Duncan MacMillan [K1GVMY, dmcmilan@pacbell.net](mailto:K1GVMY,dmcmilan@pacbell.net).

A League OF Their Own



Girls Softball Returns to Los Altos Hills

Softball is back in a big way in Los Altos Hills. On a gorgeous March day at Purissima Park, approximately 225 girls joined in with the boys at the Little League Opening Day ceremony to “run the bases” and launch the 2013 season. 200 of those girls are playing in a separate softball division of Little League that is now in its third year of play. Enrollment in the Los Altos and Los Altos Hills Little League girls softball league has been growing at over 20% per year and reflects the growth in team sport participation by local girls in recent years.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, softball was an important part of Los Altos Hills Little League. One of the ball fields at Purissima Park was originally built as a softball field for the girls. By the late 1990s and early 2000s, enrollment on both the baseball and softball sides of the Los Altos Hills Little League had declined, as a growing menu of

other sports and activities competed for the same spring evening and weekend hours.

In 1998, the Los Altos Hills Little League was short on volunteers and players and merged itself with Los Altos Little League to the benefit of both leagues. Declining player interest had also reduced the size of the girls softball program to the point where even the combined leagues could not form enough teams to sustain league play. The girls softball program was dropped after the 2002 season.



Fast forward through a decade that saw the fruits of Title IX (federal law mandating gender balance in sports opportunities), a resurgence in girls team sports, and high-profile media coverage of women's profes-

Little League girls softball league has been growing at over 20% per year and reflects the growth in team sport participation by local girls in recent years.

sional teams both at the local and international levels. Youth soccer and basketball programs in the area also showed substantial growth in participation rates by a new generation of parents and local girls. This trend was consistent with a nationwide expansion of team and individual sport opportunities for girls at the high school and college levels. Los Altos and Los Altos Hills Little League realized that it too could serve this growing demand for girls youth sport by restarting its softball program.

Successful Seasons

The first season, spring 2011, was an instant success. There was a great turnout for the school-based teams organized at elementary schools in Los Altos Hills and the north end of Los Altos, where most of the Los Altos and Los Altos Hills Little League families reside. The 2012 and 2013 seasons brought more girls, more teams, more softball divisions, and thankfully, more volunteers to organize and coach. There is no end in sight for the growth in the Los Altos and Los Altos Hills Little League girls softball program.

FOOTHILL'S New Science Center



Above: Guests depart the open house festivities for the new Foothill College PSEC. The PSEC is 65,800 square feet and consists of three buildings. The lab building (right of guests) houses five chemistry labs, two physics labs, a nanoscience lab, and a multipurpose lab. The classroom building (left of guests) features six classrooms and two large lecture rooms. The commons area (behind guests) includes conference/multipurpose space, a small cafe, and faculty offices. Right: Instructor Victor Tam conducts a science experiment with students in one of the new labs.

Foothill College celebrated the opening of its state-of-the-art Physical Sciences & Engineering Center (PSEC) on February 23. The new center is dedicated to strengthening student mastery of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics — also known as STEM — through interdisciplinary teaching and applied learning.

The new center is home to the Foothill College Science Learning Institute, an innovative instructional model that draws on educational research and

best practices to support successful teaching and learning of STEM-related content.

Foothill Physics Instructor Frank Cascarano explained that to plan for the center, faculty visited a number of other colleges that had recently built science buildings and asked a lot of questions about lessons learned.

He explained that one of the reasons Ratcliff Architects was chosen was the firm's plan for bringing together all the department's ideas into this great facility. "They really listened to our input, and knew what questions to ask when soliciting our input," Cascarano said. "PSEC is a place where science extends beyond the boundary of the classroom;

a place where science is celebrated; a place our science students can call their own."

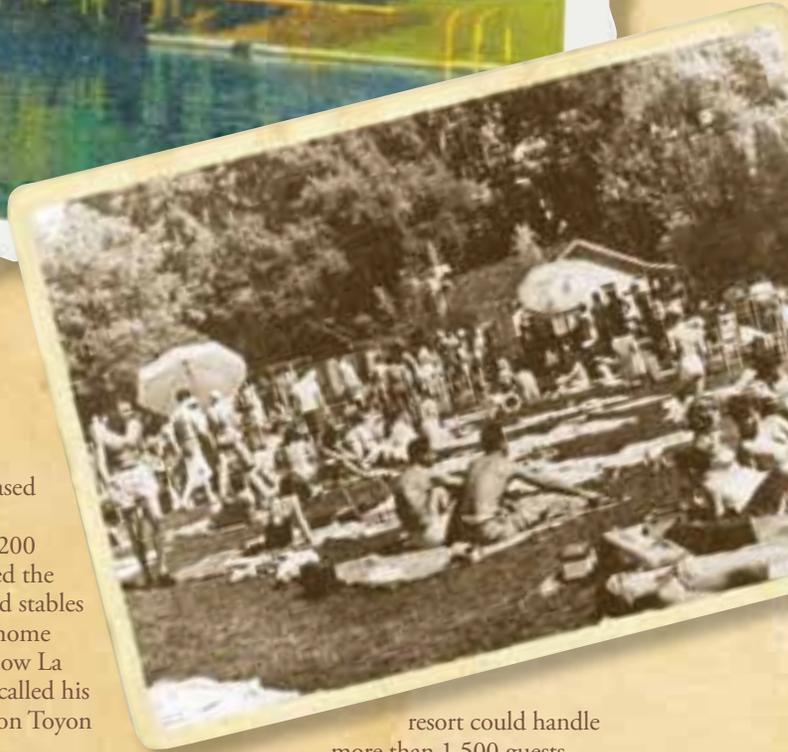
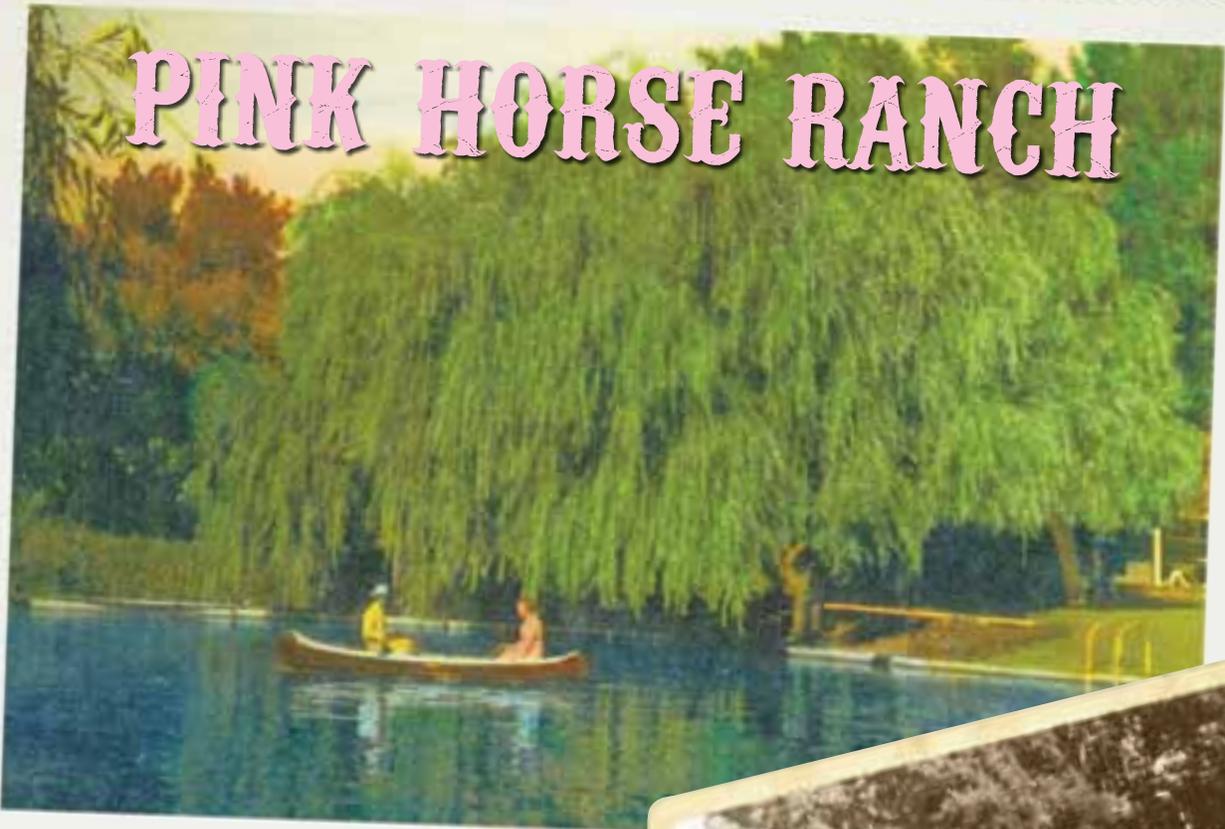
At the opening, Cascarano shared his favorite things about PSEC. Several of the colleges visited had "break-out" areas designated for students to gather and work together, or for faculty to interact with small groups of students. Foothill designed a number of these areas into PSEC. The first week it was open, students began gathering in the break-out areas to work and study together. "Yes!" Cascarano exclaimed. "The spaces are working exactly as we intended. We built PSEC with the students' interest and success in mind. And it shows. I am thrilled with the outcome. Our students love it, and I hope you do, too."

For a tour of the new Foothill PSEC, e-mail Laura Woodworth at woodworthlaura@fhda.edu. To learn more about Foothill College, please visit www.foothill.edu.

ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDINGS

The Foothill PSEC, which cost approximately \$41.6 million, was funded by Measure C, a capital improvement bond approved in 2006 by voters residing in the Foothill-De Anza Community College District. The facility has been designed to achieve the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design LEED® silver rating.

PINK HORSE RANCH



Throughout its history, Los Altos Hills has been notable for its absence of any commercial properties, with the exception of two major resorts. The first to open was Adobe Creek Lodge in 1940 followed by the Pink Horse Ranch almost a decade later.

Pink Horse Ranch was a sprawling resort, encompassing 42 acres, located at the intersection of Altamont and Moody Road. The land which the resort eventually occupied passed through many owners over the decades. The larger area, 4,400 acres, was part of Rancho San Antonio, purchased by early settler Juana Briones de Miranda in the 1840s. In the early 1900s, a parcel of 365 acres was sold to the Barroilhet family who established the Stone and Sanborn Ranch. The Barroilhets sold their land to Horace Hill in 1915. Hill renamed the farm Toyon Farm and raised Holstein cattle and for a time, Irish Wolfhounds. Hill built a mansion, guest house, a Spanish-style

barn with two silos, and created a large lake surrounded by beautiful weeping willow trees.

In 1935, William Henry Davis purchased Toyon Farm, then consisting of about 200 acres. Davis increased the sizes of the barns and stables and remodeled the home located on what is now La Loma Drive. Davis called his horse riding operation Toyon Stock Farm.

Davis eventually retired in 1951 and sold his land to Far West Enterprises, owned by the Cunningham family, for a modest sum of \$150,000. The new owners developed the land to open a resort, Pink Horse Ranch, in 1951.

The Pink Horse Ranch featured a large restaurant (converted from the existing barn), swimming pool, bath house, lake (populated with ducks), and extensive parking lots. At its peak, the

resort could handle more than 1,500 guests.

Although the resort did not have a liquor license, it served cold beer. The logo, designed by a Walt Disney studio animator, can still be seen on the stone posts on Tapa Way.

Residents and visitors enjoyed the resort amenities for only a few years; however, Pink Horse Ranch eventually closed in 1956 due to growing debt, bad management, and competition from Adobe Creek Lodge. The land was sold to Harry Gamel (for \$175,000) and subdivided into one-acre parcels.





TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS
 26379 Fremont Road
 Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

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 U.S. Postage
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 Los Altos, CA
 Permit No. 306

Town Newsletter Statement of Purpose

This is the official town newsletter to communicate current issues, services, and activities in Los Altos Hills to the residents of the town — to facilitate, encourage, and improve interaction between the residents and the town government. The newsletter is published quarterly. **Deadline for the next issue is July 1, 2013.**

Printed with soy-based inks. International Paper, the manufacturer of the paper, has earned Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Forestry Stewardship Council dual certification.

www.losaltoshills.ca.gov

Our Town

Our Town is published with assistance from Town Volunteer Committees.
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Los Altos Hills City Council

Gary Waldeck, Mayor
 John Radford, Vice Mayor
 Courtenay Corrigan
 John Harpootlian
 Rich Larsen

CALENDAR



June 20

Thursday, 5:00 - 8:00 pm
Summer Solstice Celebration

Held at home of Art & Jean Carmichael. Learn more about LACF and what the nonprofit organization does in the community. Appetizers, wine and live music. For more information, visit www.losaltoscf.org.



July 4

Thursday, 9:30 am
Fourth of July Parade
 Red, white, blue, and you! Gather at Town Hall and march down to Gardner Bullis for a tasty watermelon treat. For more information, contact Sarah Gualtieri at sgualtieri@losaltoshills.ca.gov or 650-947-2518.

Thursday 10:30 am - 2:00 pm
Glorious 4th of July Park Festival

Held at Shoup Park after the 4th of July parade. Enjoy food, games, and live entertainment for all ages. Visit www.losaltoscf.org to learn more.



13-14

Sat - Sun, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

34th Annual Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival
 Los Altos transforms into the largest two-day, mid-summer event in the Bay Area. For more information, visit www.down.townlosaltos.org.

Sept 7

Sat, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Hoedown
 Held at Westwind Community Barn, 27210 Altamont Road. Fun for all. Free admission with

food and beverages to purchase. For more information, contact 650-947-2518.



Sat, 5:30 - 11:00 pm
LACF Gala Fundraiser
 Held at Stonebrook Court. 1950s-themed dinner, live music, auction, and more. For more information, visit www.losaltoscf.org.

Calendar events are also posted on town's website: www.losaltoshills.ca.gov